

Abstract

[0046] A method and apparatus to synchronize the heterogeneous databases of this invention, first extracts the files to be synchronized from a first database (in the case of the manufacturing facility, the online specification database). These files have a first format such as character or numeric data that is then converted to a second format such as the Engineering Data Workflow (EDW) or Lotus Notes to create the document object files of the second database. The converted files are then automatically attached to the second database for review by a document manager. The document manager is either a person responsible for reviewing changes to the second database or may be an automated reviewing mechanism. If the database modification is approved, the document manager generates a permission semaphore to gain access and use of the first database.